



ECHO

(Every Catholic Has Obligations)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST STEPHEN COUNCIL #14084

Riverview, FL.
www.kofc14084.org



Vol 1

December 2006

NO. 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 13	Admissions Committee Mtg 6:30 PM (Church Nursery)
December 13	COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
December 18	Open House for New Council (St Francis)
December 19	First Degree Exemplification 7 PM (St Francis)
December 31	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Seattle)
January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 3	COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
January 6	Road Cleanup (Bell Shoals Rd)
January 13	KofC Free Throw Competition (YMCA Bloomingdale)
January 15	Individual Fraternal Survey Due to FS
January 17	COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
January 19	Family Potluck Dinner (Church MPR)
January 20	Second Degree (Tentative)
January 27	Substance Abuse Poster Contest Judging (TBD)
January 31	Fraternal Survey Due to Supreme
Jan-Feb (TBD)	Semiannual Audit
February 7	COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
February 17-18	Tootsie Roll Campaign (Church)
February 21	Ash Wednesday
February 22	COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
Feb-Mar (TBD)	MEMBERSHIP BLITZ
March 7	COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
March 15	Altar Server of the Year Due
March 15	Service Program State Reports Due
March 21	COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)



GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

Rick Hughes

657-0343

grandknight@kofc14084.org

Brothers one and all:

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. The Council has been existence for only six months, but it seems much longer!. John Sepessey reports strong sales for Christmas Cards, but thinks he can do even better next year. All of our proceeds this year will go to the St Stephen School.. The outdoor Nativity sets are built and on display, and our sign is up on Boyette Road. Frank Hanning-ton reports that, with help of a generous donation by Lowe's, we have three Christmas trees up at local hospices. There were many kids who appreciated the hay ride at the Advent Gathering. What a great way to go into this special season!

Of course, I also need to mention the tremendous job our membership committee has done thus far. As of December 1, St Stephen Council leads the state in recruitment for Division 1 (the small Council Division). Way to go! But we can't rest on our laurels. We will be the best in the State only if we continue to recruit. With all of the Knights-sponsored activities going on during Advent, we have plenty of recognition. Let's get more men involved. The most common reason given by men for not joining the Knights is never having been asked. So what are you waiting for? Ask someone!

Our concession stand at RJS is exceeding expectations and helping ease the financial burden of our first year of Council operations. Thanks to Julio Alvarez for organizing a great effort. Every Knight who has attended has commented on what great time and bonding experience this is. And if you've never experienced the cow bell, you are missing something!

Our plans are shaping up for upcoming activities—the Free Throw contest, the Substance Abuse Poster Contest, the Tootsie Roll Campaign, and many other activities. However, I still see that many of you are “hanging back” and have not yet joined a committee. Please remember our goal is to get everyone to become a member of at least one committee. Even if you can only help out very infrequently, we need you! And also remember—joining a committee is a requirement for advancement to 2d and 3d Degrees.

Speaking of Degrees, our Second Degree team had a very successful Exemplification on Dec 9th. However, we still need some men to volunteer for nonspeaking roles, as well as for understudying the speaking roles. In addition, in the near future, we will be forming a First Degree Team for the Council. Again, if you are interested in either Degree Team, please contact Ed Milius or me.

Please help the Financial Secretary out by filling out the Annual Fraternal Survey. The Council submission is a requirement for the Star Council award, one of our goals this year, but the accuracy of the report depends on member input. There will be a link on the web site, or you may fill out the enclosed form. But get your input in!

Finally, for the officers—it is definitely not too early to begin thinking about the State Service Program reports. Pull out the report forms and start thinking about how you would fill them out. While awards should not be our goal, we should strive to optimize credit for all of our activities.

May you and your families have a faith-filled and blessed Christmas!

OFFICERS

Grand Knight

Rick Hughes

Chaplain

Fr. Bill Swengros

Deputy Grand Knight

Frank Wuco

Chancellor

Tony Westbrook

Warden

Tim Donahue

Financial Secretary

Ed Smith

Treasurer

Chuck Lusky

Advocate

Jerry Westbrook

Recorder

John Columbia, Jr.

Lecturer

Tom Cummings IV

Guards

Inside: John Columbia III

Outside: Craig Diemer

Warren Woods

Trustees

1 Year: Ed Milius, PGK

2 Years: Allen Eckerle, PGK

3 Years: Nick Turco, PGK

Field Agent

Thomas P. Cummings III

813-625-2444

Email: Thomas.Cummings@kofc.org

DIRECTORS & CHAIRS

Membership Director

Julio Alvarez, Jr.

Program Director

Frank Wuco

Church Committee

Jerry Westbrook

Community Committee

Chuck Lusky

Council Committee

Ed Milius

Family Committee

Vacant

Youth Committee

Tom Bailey

Degree Team Captain

Ed Milius

Public Relations

Tony Westbrook

RJS Concessions Contact

Julio Alvarez, Jr.

Newsletter Editor

Dave Morrow

Resource Links

Council Web Site

www.kofc14084.org

Florida State Council

www.floridastatecouncil.com

Supreme Council:

www.kofc.org

Fr McGivney Guild

www.fathermcgivney.org

News from Supreme Council

From the Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson 12/1/07

The Church will soon celebrate the 475th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego at the foot of Tepeyac Hill. It was Pope Pius XII, nearly 70 years ago, who proclaimed Mary as “Empress of All the Americas.” In that sense, we Knights might choose to honor her these next 12 months under the title, “Our Lady of Unity.” As we seek to bring Columbianism to every eligible Catholic man, regardless of what language he speaks or what his country of origin may be, let us seek her intercession.

The first Knights of Columbus charter may have been proudly signed by Father Michael J. McGivney and other men of Irish- American descent. Today, though, the charters I sign are studded with names like “Rivera” and “Aguilar,” “Wnorowski” and “Zadrozny,” and “Nguyen” and “Pham.” What this demonstrates to me is that Columbianism is a powerful force within the Church that transcends borders. The Knights of Columbus brings Catholic men together as Catholic men first, and as proud citizens of their homeland or adopted country second. Though the Knights started at Council 1 in the predominantly Irish immigrant parish of St. Mary’s in New Haven, we now have councils numbering 14,000 and higher in urban, suburban and rural parishes, on college campuses and on military bases throughout America, Asia and Europe – wherever Catholic men want to come together united in charity for the Church, the community, family life, young people and one another.

Our Lady of Unity, who humbly imitates your Son in everything, let us always be led by your example as we carry Father McGivney’s vision forward.

Vivat Jesus!

Fund established to aid those affected by Typhoon Durian in Philippines.

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus Dec. 7 committed \$50,000 to help victims of Typhoon Durian, which struck the island of Luzon in the Philippines Nov. 30, and encouraged state and local councils of the Order and any concerned individual donor, to make contributions as well.

The powerful storm hit the Philippines with winds as high as 140 miles (225 kilometers) per hour, and caused landslides and flooding that destroyed or damaged at least 250,000 homes. More than 1,300 people are dead or missing in the wake of the storm, and aid is urgently needed for the survivors. The worst damage was done in the area around Mayon, a volcano in the province of Albay.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson noted that the Knights of Columbus has more than 200,000 members in the Philippines, many of whom have been working to help those affected by the storm.

“Just as U.S. and Canadian Knights rushed to help those in need after hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, Filipino Knights are reaching out to their countrymen on Luzon who are suffering so much right now,” Anderson said. “This contribution expresses our solidarity with them in their

Knights commit another \$1M to national shrine

NEW HAVEN, December 11 (CNA) - The Knights of Columbus have made a \$1-million gift to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The contribution makes the Order the lead donor of a 3,780 square-foot mosaic dome in the Shrine's Great Upper Church, which will depict themes relating to the Incarnation.

The donation continues the Knights' historic relationship with the shrine. In 1959, the Order donated \$1 million for the construction of the shrine's bell tower, also known as the Knights' Tower, which contains a carillon of 56 bells.

In the 1980s, the Knights established and have continually maintained a Knight-staffed usher ministry at the shrine. The Order also created a \$1-million memorial endowment, named in honor of Past Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart, to promote Marian devotion at the shrine and to preserve and maintain the building.

Since 1989, the Order has regularly funded televised liturgies or other spiritual broadcasts from the shrine.

The announcement of the Knights' gift came on the day the Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

District Deputy's Report

Jim Merckling, PGK

I wish to congratulate all the new Sir Knights in the district. I trust that you found the Fourth Degree Exemplification to be very edifying.

Congratulations to Steven Markham who represented St. Stephen Council 14084 in the Soccer Challenge. He won the 12 Year Old Boys division at Council and Regional Level and competed in the State Challenge. Next year we should have a district level challenge in soccer. Council basketball free throw shooting contests should be scheduled. This event really sneaks up on you so you have to be preparing as we speak. Last year, St Anne's Council 7210 had a young lady place fourth in at the state level. It would be nice to see more of our kids advance in this event. The district shootout will occur as soon as possible after the last council's contest.

I will be attending the state mid year meeting in Melbourne on Dec 8 and 9 and I am sure I will have a wealth of information when I return.

Continue to recruit quality members and to make the new members and their families welcome into your councils.

For my family, I wish to thank everyone who offered their condolences at my mom's passing.

And finally, on behalf of my wife, we would like to wish all of you a very joyous and holy Christmas season. Please take advantage of the opportunities made available by your parishes to enrich your lives through the many liturgical activities that occur. May 2007 be a very blessed, prosperous and Happy New Year. See you at your next council meeting!

We want your email address!!!!

If you are receiving this newsletter by old-fashioned snail mail, it is because we have no valid email address for you! Please go our web site (www.kofc.14084.org) and register, or send an email to the Financial Secretary (esmith@cookieco.com). You can get it quicker (and save the Council administrative costs) by receiving the newsletter via email.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

November 2006— Steve Haines & Family



FOURTH DEGREE REPORT Bishop McGlaughlin Assembly 1850

Faithful Navigator: *Tim Manning, PGK*

Faithful Comptroller: *Curt Davis, PGK*

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

November 2006—George Allgoever

For January to June 2007, the Bishop McGlaughlin Assembly 1850 will meet on the Second *Thursday* of the Month at 7:30 PM Nativity Church Social Hall D. The change is due to renovations at Nativity, which is, in turn, causing scheduling restraints.

There were fourteen men who took their Fourth Degree in Orlando on Nov 25th and joined our Assembly, including seven from St Stephen Council. Congratulations Sir Knights!

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR AWARD

December 2006—Ed Smith

Sick and Distressed

Tony Westbrook (chancellor@kofc14084.org)

Please remember the following Knights in your prayers:

Alan Grundish
Chuck Lusky

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.

*May you and your family have a
Holy and Blessed Christmas*



Church

*Jerry Westbrook 651-1043
advocate@kofc14084.org*

The sales of Christmas cards were fantastic—over \$2,000 worth! Thank you, John Sepessy for organizing the effort.

Our Nativity sets are built and up—you should have seen them by now! As well, our Christmas sign is greeting motorists on Boyette Road. Thanks to George Allgoever and his team for building the crèches and the figurines!

Frank Hannington reports that the Christmas trees are up at three local hospices, thanks to some donations by Lowes. Thanks to Frank and especially to Steve and Sue Haines for coordinating this effort. Look for more from Frank as we explore other ways to help the hospices.

Christmas at Hospice House—*Frank Hannington*
Evangelization—*Frank Hannington*
Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign—*John Sepessy*
Parochial Services—*Steve Haines*
Religious Devotions—*Bernie Loughlin*
Vocations—*Nick Turco*

Community

*Chuck Lusky 643-5587
treasurer@kofc14084.org*

Our next road cleanup is set for Saturday Jan 6.

Tootsie Roll Campaign is set for Feb 17 and 18 after Masses, with a TBD date for commercial venues. More next month. Mark your calendars for Special Olympics at USF on Apr 28, 2007.

We are still looking to jump start a Military Family Support Committee to assist families of deployed military parishioners. Please contact Chuck Lusky at 643-5587 or Greg Grambor at 653-3131.

Finally, we are looking to become more active in pro-life activities. Please call Chuck if you want to be more involved in this area.

Family

Vacant

We are still looking for a new Family Director. We really need someone to help lead this important part of our program.

Thanks to the Knights who helped out at the Advent Gathering Hay Ride. A good time was had by all, and Father Bill sent us a written letter of appreciation.

Our next family potluck social is scheduled for 7 PM, January 19 in the Church Multipurpose Room. Please mark your calendars!

Every month we seek nominations for Family of the Month. If you know of a Knight's family deserving of recognition for their ministry and/or their display of Christian values, please contact the Grand Knight.

Youth

*Tom Bailey 787-1021
tebe1021@yahoo.com*

Basketball Free Throw Competition is scheduled for 9 AM-noon on January 13th at the Bloomingdale YMCA. We are going to need much help on this one, so please volunteer your time to Gene Batronie who is chairing this event.

The Substance Abuse Poster Contest is ongoing. Posters are due Jan 20, and the judging will take place on Jan 27

Council

*Ed Milius 689-6565
Ed_Milius@yahoo.com*

We had a nice turnout for the Memorial Mass on Nov 29. Thank you, Father Mike, for a wonderful Mass!

It does not seem possible, but Joe Saski keeps on improving our Council web site. If you have not seen it lately, be sure to take a look!

www.kofc14084.org.

We still have a need for understudies and for non-speaking roles on the Second Degree Team. In the near future, we will start forming a First Degree Team. If you are interested, please contact the Ed Milius or the Grand Knight.

RJS Schedule

*Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com*

We're down to our last game at RJS ending the season working the Bucs vs Seattle Game on Sunday, Dec 31. With that game we'll conclude our first and highly successful fundraising effort for the Council, setting the standard for what I hope will be similarly successful subsequent years. My thanks to all of those who've come out and shared in the camaraderie that has evolved throughout the season. I intend to provide a rollup of our venue next month once we close out the season and receive our commission and report from the last BUCs game.

I remind you that for 1 pm games we meet at the Church at 7:45 am to carpool and arrive to check in at the stadium by 9 pm. Please wear black or dark trousers or shorts and comfortable non-skid shoes. You will be issued a shirt, apron and hat at the stadium. I also recommend you bring a hand towel and a cup so you can get soft drinks (free) at the stadium while you work.

Vocations

*Nick Turco 662-1845
nturco@tfc.circor.com*

By now, all of you should have received a mailing from Tony Nalli, the Florida State Council Vocations Chairman. The Vocations Fund gets at one of our fundamental tenets as Knights-supporting our priests (and our priests-to-be). Tony is asking for \$5 per Knight, but by all means, please give more if you are able! If you have lost your envelope and form, please make your check out to Florida KofC Charities Inc./ Vocations Fund, and send it to:

SK Tony Nalli PGK FDD
State Vocations Fund Chairman
7431 Mahaffey Dr Apt A
New Port Richey, FL 34653

Be sure to annotate our Council number (14084) on your form and/or check.

Membership

*Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com*

Brothers.

We continue to grow our Council and our Order due to the great recruiting effort being put in by our membership. It's been absolutely amazing how our newest members continue to become 'active and involved' members. Without a doubt, our recruiting of new members continues to thrive due to both 'active' recruiting, where we approach and solicit prospective members, but most importantly through 'passive' recruiting, which is where prospective members watch you in action and are often compelled to seek and become a part of this great organization. There is no question in my mind that our greatest recruiting tool is the example we Knights set as active Catholic Gentlemen supporting our Parish and community, our clergy and our faith. We must continue this effort – I encourage those of you eligible for the Shining Armor Award to work on recruiting and sponsoring at least one new member in the next 90 days so that you can be among the first in our Council to receive this honor.

Admissions. Remember that in order for an applicant to be elected as a Candidate, he must appear before the Admissions Committee. The Committee is convened by our Worthy Chancellor at 6:30 pm on the day of our scheduled Business Meetings. Applicants must appear with their Sponsor.

Second Degree. Congratulations to our newest 2nd Degree Members who were exemplified in the 2nd Degree of our Order on Saturday, 9 December, at St Stephen Catholic School. These 15 Candidates were the first members advancing to the 2nd Degree and also the first exemplified by our new 2nd Degree Team. 2nd Degree Members will receive the 3rd Degree Advancement Preparation Guides at the beginning of the new year so you can start working towards that goal.

First Degree Members must complete 2nd Degree Advancement Preparation Requirements (posted on our Council Website under downloads), certified and nominated by the 2nd Degree Advancement Team and approved by Grand Knight before being allowed to participate in the Exemplification Ceremony. First Degree Exemplifications are normally conducted on the second Tuesday of each month, traditionally at Nativity Catholic Church.

If you have any questions regarding membership issues please contact me by phone or email.

Again – Thanks you once again for all of your efforts!

Financial Secretary Corner

*Ed Smith 662-1845
esmith@cookieco.com*

The Annual Fraternal Survey is upon us. Every year, each Council is required to survey its members in a number of areas—estimated volunteer service hours (church, community, youth, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and miscellaneous), frequency of blood donations, visits to care for the sick and console the bereaved, and hours of fraternal service. This survey is an important gauge for the Order. Please go to the Council website and fill out the survey, or complete the form in this newsletter and send it to me. Please help us out by filling out the survey promptly, but no later than January 15th, 2007!

Congratulations!

New First Degree Members

New Second Degree Members

George Allgoever

Tom Bailey

Guillermo Bambach

Gene Batronie

Joe Colaianni

Aaron Drury

John Florkiewicz

Steve Haines

Frank Hannington

Chris Lewis

Darin O'Neal

Dennis Salathe

John Sepessy

Brad Shockley

Herb Swoope

New Third Degree Members

New Fourth Degree Members

John Columbia, Jr.

John Columbia III

John Joyce

Jim Kelly

Ed Smith

Jerry Westbrook

Tony Westbrook

Remember—you must be certified by the Grand Knight before you can proceed to 2d and 3d degrees. If you have not received a copy of the steps for advancement, send an email to the membership Director and he will get you a copy. Questions? Contact the Advanced Degree Team (*Eric Sessums 662-2226* or *Greg Celestan 655-4007*) or the Membership Director (*Julio Alvarez 662-1845*).

2006 ANNUAL SURVEY OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITY AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS PARTNERSHIP PROFILE
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER WORKSHEET

Last year, the Knights of Columbus donated more than \$130 million to charitable and benevolent causes and 61.1 million hours of volunteer community service to aid the less fortunate. **To help prepare our Fraternal Survey and Special Olympics Partnership Profile for the Supreme Council office, please complete the information requested below and submit the form online or return it to the Financial Secretary at our next meeting.** This information will assist us in determining the total number of hours of community service volunteered by our members during the calendar year.

Your answers for questions 1-3 should include ALL your volunteer activities, not just those activities specifically sponsored by the Council or the Order. The intent is to show the collective extent of the volunteer activities of individual Knights.

Your KofC Member Number: _____

Note: Your member number will only be used to temporarily track Council responses; no permanent record of your response will kept.

1. Number of visits you made during the calendar year to:

Sick -- caring for the sick/nursing homes / hospitals _____

Bereaved -- visits of condolence _____

2. Number of times you served as a blood donor during the calendar year..... _____

3. Estimated hours of community volunteer service during the calendar year:

Church Activities -- service in all Church related activities _____

Community Activities -- service in all community related activities _____

Youth Activities -- service in all youth related activities _____

Habitat for Humanity -- service in all related projects _____

Miscellaneous Activities -- service in areas not outlined above _____

4. Number of hours of fraternal service during the calendar year:

Sick/disabled members and their families -- household chores, transportation, tutoring, counselling, etc. _____

5. Volunteer hours provided by you and/or your family to Special Olympics during the calendar year:

State Games/Events _____

Regional Games/Events _____

Local Games/Events _____

6. Special Olympics events in which you and/or your family participated during the calendar year:

State Spring Games ☐

State Autumn Games ☐

Regional Events (Specify) ☐

Local Events (Specify) ☐

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